

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND: By DREW PEARSON

Baggage For JFK Trip: Aid Dissension

WASHINGTON, June 22 — As President Kennedy begins his tour of Europe the question of U.S. military aid for the countries he is visiting is under one of the toughest attacks in its up-and-down history.

The current attack comes from Democrats, not Republicans, among them Sen. William Fulbright of Arkansas, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, and Sen. Wayne Morse of Oregon. Their criticism of U.S. military spending abroad represents the feeling of a large segment of the American public.

"I happen to think that the greatest defense weapon we have is our own economy," said Sen. Morse, in cross-examining Secretary of Defense McNamara regarding U.S. military aid to foreign countries.

"Therefore, I am not very much impressed with your argument that we ought to be able to pay this bill with a national gross product of \$600 billion a year. It doesn't help me very much on my farm to increase my gross product each year if I don't balance my books. And we are not balancing our books, as evidenced by the fact we just got through raising the debt ceiling."

This declaration from a liberal Democrat, probably supported by a cross-section of American opinion, must necessarily influence

President Kennedy in making commitments to Western Europe leaders on his trip.

Furthermore it's important for the leaders of Western Europe to remember it. The plain fact is that the American public has started to go isolationist; and Western Europe, led by President de Gaulle, is largely responsible.

Secretary McNamara, to whom Morse paid tribute as the ablest Secretary of Defense in history, gave eloquent arguments that our NATO allies were increasing their military spending. But his arguments made little impact on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

"I want to know what effect this program is having on our domestic civilian economy," demanded Morse. "And when I see the economy that we have built up in Europe advancing far ahead of the United States' economy, it is about time we take a look at what I consider to be our most important defense weapon, the status of our own economy."

Morse is chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Education. Referring to this fact, he said, "We have had Administration witnesses up here before my subcommittee testifying that 75 percent of the scientists and skilled technicians in this country who at the present time are working on research and development, are doing the fields of space, missiles, atomic energy for military purposes and other military use, and only 25 percent of the research in the field of the civilian economy."

"Of course no such figure exists in Europe, and it suggests to me one of the reasons why the European economy is galloping ahead of the American economy."

Secretary McNamara denied this, said he was sure 75 percent of the scientists and engineers of the nation are not tied up with defense or space.

BOTH MORSE AND FULBRIGHT were critical of the Administration's policy of financial aid to Spain and Portugal.

"I don't quite see why they have the nerve to ask for rent on a base which is just as much for their protection as it is ours?" Fulbright told the Secretary of Defense.

Morse then called attention to the flagging support for NATO by Gen. de Gaulle, despite which the United States is contributing about \$77 million to domestic expenditures inside France for the support of NATO communications, transportation, etc.

"It has been my understanding," he said, "that the United States in NATO conferences has been calling upon President de Gaulle to supply more men to NATO under NATO command and he has refused. Am I correct about that?"

"Yes, you are quite correct," replied McNamara, though he went on to say that, in case of attack, France undoubtedly would throw its troops into the defense of NATO.

"I intend to show in debate on the Senate floor what the United States is contributing at every point in the world where freedom is being challenged," warned Morse. "And I am also going to argue that our allies are not paying their load, and that the time has come for us to stop contributing money to allies who are not living up to their obligation."



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